

10-12-2006

The Hilltop 10-12-2006

Hilltop Staff

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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 90, NO. 32

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

THURSDAY
notebook

BREAKING NEWS

AL-QAEDA INDICTED FOR TREASON

AMERICAN AL QAEDA PROPAGANDIST, ADAM GADHAN WAS INDICTED WEDNESDAY ON CHARGES OF TREASON. GADHAN IS THE FIRST AMERICAN TO BE CHARGED WITH THE OFFENSE DURING THE U.S. WAR ON TERRORISM, ACCORDING TO CNN.COM

METRO

AROUND THE DISTRICT

CURIOUS ABOUT THE LIFE OF A BLACK STUDENT AT ANOTHER SCHOOL? SEE METRO FOR THE STORY OF ONE LOCAL STUDENT. PG 4



THURS, 10/12:
PARTLY CLOUDY
HIGH: 66, LOW: 46

FRI, 10/13:
AM SHOWERS
HIGH: 55, LOW: 39

Network Services Work to Improve Dorm Cable Selection

BY TRAVER RIGGINS
Hilltop Staff Writer

Many Howard students have found themselves frustrated with channel outages, cursing station silence and wishing for more to watch than the "cable in the classroom" selection of TV programs.

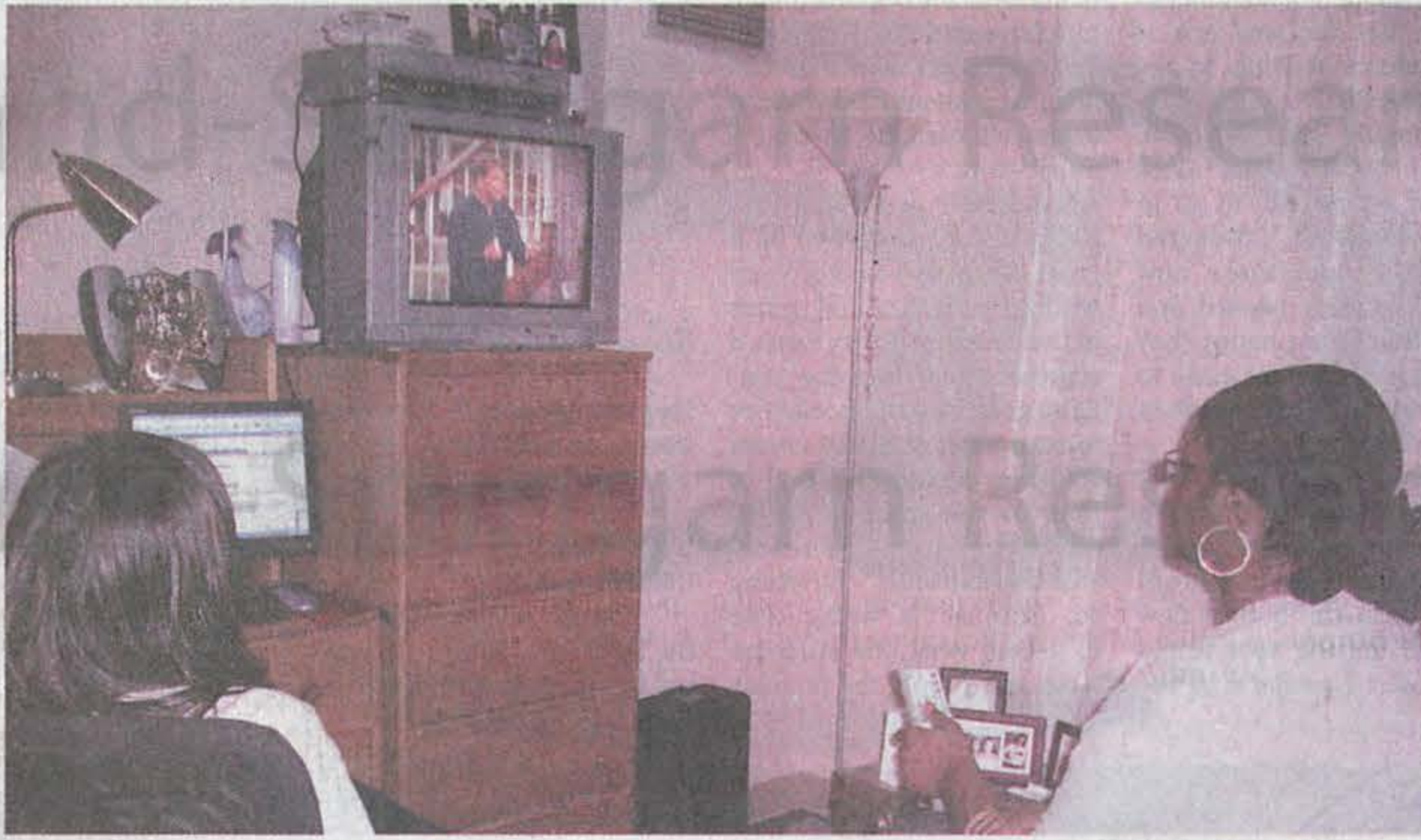
"Howard cable is really whack," said Monique Henry, a sophomore biology major. "We have crazy stations like Spike and two different C-SPAN channels, but at the same time we don't have Fox and other basic stations."

As of now, individual dorm residents are not able to create their own channel selection. The entire campus is subscribed to one customized package.

"A cable package is licensed and distributed throughout the dormitories," said Tyrone Boyd, director of Network Services. "The lineup and the number of channels can be changed, but there would be a cost involved depending upon those decisions."

It is, however, possible to change the station selection. Howard's cable service provider, Campus TeleVideo (CTV), said on their website, "CTV customers have the ability to make changes to their channel line-ups, at any time, allowing the school to change as their demographic profile changes."

Henry said, "I think they should



Cable television provider, Campus TeleVideo, encourages students to report sound malfunctions, station problems and other issues that may arise with television service in dormitories, in order to improve service.

just suck up the costs and go for more channels because there are a lot of basic channels that we are missing."

Along with what some consider a limited selection, there are glitches in the current system. The cable, which is delivered to reception equipment on campus via satellite, undergoes maintenance during the

summer.

According to Boyd, disturbances that arise during the school year, such as some channels going mute, are reported to CTV, who is supposed to comply or react immediately.

"They [are] teasing you. You get sound on BET like once a week," said Stephanie Gamble, a freshman actuarial science major.

Network Services is requesting that students report these and other problems in order to help fix them.

"We are asking all dormitory residents to report voice, data and video issues to the Community Director's office of his or her dormitory in which they reside," Boyd said.

Many of the problems that arise with the cable system are not of a

technical nature and can be prevented with maintenance, Boyd said. "These problems are being streamlined in an attempt to provide better service," he said.

Hopefully, with improved and more detailed data collection through the cooperation of residents and community directors, Network Services will be able to work with CTV during the summers to ensure a glitch-free school year for students starting in the fall.

"We feel that we can provide better service if we receive the information in a more streamlined fashion, and it is less likely that we will miss an issue of a resident if we can funnel the concern through each Community Director's office," Boyd said.

Currently, there are technicians who work on physical problems like broken wall jacks, but there are also technicians for more intricate problems with programming televisions.

Network Services is working on a plethora of projects for students, including digital television system, IPTV, (Internet Protocol Television) which uses computer-networking services to provide television service as opposed to traditional methods such as cabling. They are also working to provide HDTV service in some select areas on campus.

"We are attempting to find the dollars to take advantage of IPTV throughout the entire campus," Boyd said.

Yankees Pitcher Cory Lidle Killed in Plane Crash

BY CARYN GRANT
Sports Editor

The New York Yankees organization and Major League Baseball community were dealt a huge blow Wednesday, when reports surfaced that Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle and another passenger were aboard a small plane that crashed into a 50-story condominium tower on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

Federal Aviation Administration records showed that the aircraft was registered to Lidle, according to the Associated Press. An anonymous law enforcement

official in Washington said that the athlete's passports were found at the scene.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said that both people aboard were killed.

Lidle, 34, received his flying license during last year's off season. This summer, before his July 30 trade from the Phillies, he told The Philadelphia Inquirer, "I'm not worried about it. I'm safe up there. I feel very comfortable with my abilities flying an airplane."

Lidle spoke to the New York Times last month about the safety of his plane, a four-seat Cirrus SR20.

"The whole plane has

a parachute on it," he said. "Ninety-nine percent of pilots that go up never have engine failure, and the one percent that do usually land it. But if you're up in the air and something goes wrong, you pull that parachute, and the whole plane goes down slowly."

The law enforcement official said the plane had issued a distress call before the crash, but it was unknown whether Lidle was at the controls.

The crash came only four days after the Yankees made an early exit from the playoffs, falling to the Detroit Tigers, 3-1, in the American League Division Series.

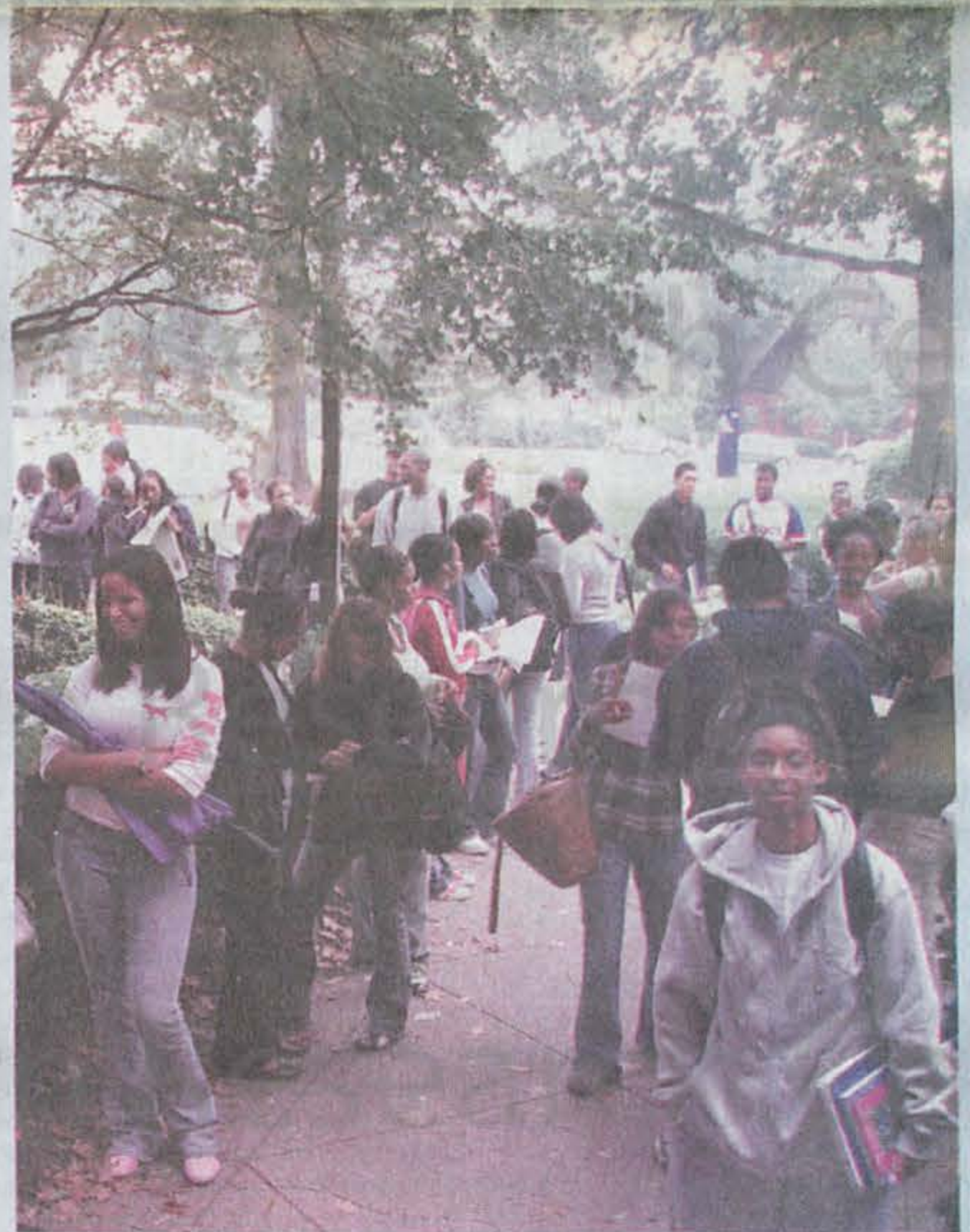
Lidle, who posted a 12-10 regular season record and 4.85 ERA, pitched 1 and 1/3 innings in the fourth and final game of the series and gave up three earned runs, but was not the losing pitcher.

For his career, he was 82-72 with two saves and a 4.57 earned run average. His career began in 1997 with the Mets, and he also pitched for the Devilrays, the Athletics, Bluejays and Reds before going to the Phillies who traded him to the Yankees.

According to ESPN, Lidle was an outcast among some teammates throughout his career because he became a replacement player in 1995, when major-leaguers were on strike.

Lidle is survived by his wife, Melanie and his six-year-old son, Christopher Taylor.

Despite the tragic events, the MLB Playoffs will continue as scheduled.



Derrell Smith - Staff Photographer

Students Displaced After Fire Alarms Sound in Douglass

Classes in Douglass Hall were interrupted on Wednesday when fire alarms sounded in the building around 11 a.m. The building was evacuated and several classes were canceled, while other classes were dismissed early. Students and professors were allowed to reenter the building after about 45 minutes. Officials say there was no fire. They say it is likely someone may have pulled the fire alarm.



Photo Courtesy of www.cnn.com

It is unknown whether Cory Lidle was at the controls when his plane crashed into a condominium tower Wednesday.

HUB Adds CDs and DVDs For Students' Benefit

BY ANYA L. ALEXANDER
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Howard University Bookstore (HUB) is moving closer to becoming a 'One Stop Shop' as it seeks to expand its services and product lines to students on campus.

As some students may have already noticed, the bookstore has added a new stand of CDs and DVDs to the second level of the store. The collection includes an eclectic selection of gospel favorites, "oldies but goodies" classics, the best of R&B, rap and hip-hop hits.

The HUB carried this section many years ago, but it was discontinued due to local competition.

Last spring, the HUB revisited the idea of catering to the incoming freshmen as well as the upperclassmen by having an easily accessible music and movie selection, particularly for students who have no transportation or those who enjoy the convenience of shopping near campus.

CDs are priced starting as low as \$9.99, according to

Monique Mozee, marketing manager of the HUB.

"We are trying to break into the nontraditional product experience that offers students more than just textbooks and supplies," Mozee said. "One of our main goals is to give students more options to choose from."

Beyonce's new CD, *B'Day*, left the shelves quickly when word got out that the HUB would have it.

Senior broadcast journalism major Torri Moncrief admits that she was one of the students waiting to get Beyonce's CD.

"I really love Beyonce, and I couldn't wait until the end of the day to go to Target to get it," Moncrief said. "The bookstore's new section is much needed and worthwhile. I am happy they are stepping up their game to meet the wants and needs of the students."

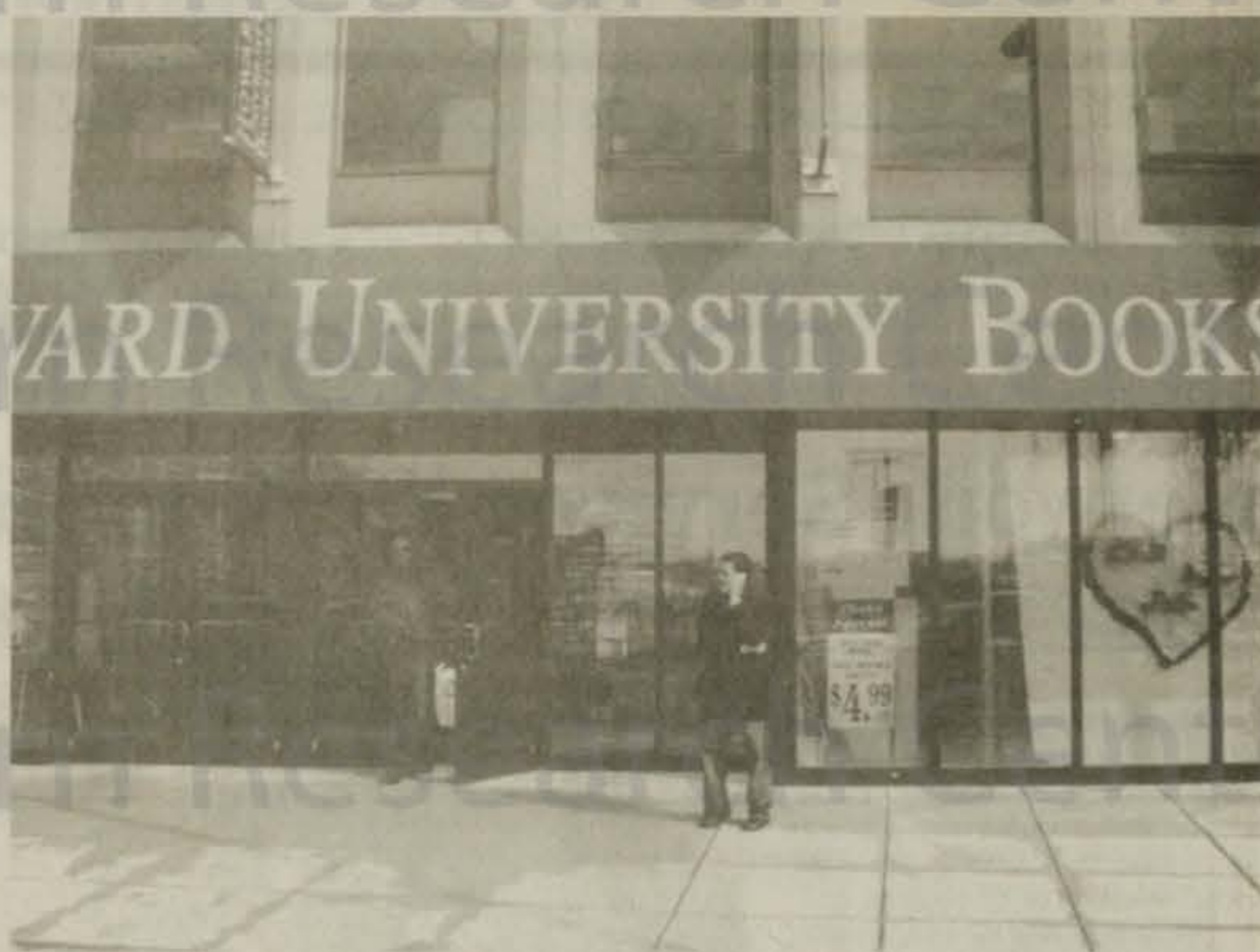
Donna Morris-Powell, operations manager in the HUB, expressed the importance of the bookstore keeping up with the hottest new releases, making sure prices are similar to what's in the

retail market and selling it at an equal or discounted price.

Europac is the distribution company responsible for providing the bookstore with its wide collection of CDs and DVDs. Europac is located on a military base in Virginia, and has been working very hard to expand its services to colleges and universities all over the world.

The HUB is pleased with the new services and is satisfied with the idea that students have the opportunity to purchase their favorite movies and music right here on campus instead of having to travel off campus to find a music store.

Morris-Powell said that Europac has proven to be a great company who keeps up with the latest hits and trends in the industry. Every week, a representative from the company goes into the bookstore to scan the number of copies sold over a certain period of time in the store to determine customer preferences and buyer trends. By doing so, Europac is better able to access what the students want and supply the popular



Howard University Bookstore offers more than just textbooks. The most recent addition is an entertainment section that offers CDs and DVDs to Howard students.

items that students are most interested in.

Though sales are steady, the HUB is working on bringing in artists for promotions,

similar to what is done for book signings.

"Students are excited about the new addition to the bookstore," Morris-Powell

said. "It has proven to be a great investment to put back into the store."

THE SPOTLIGHT

Faculty: John Davis



File Photo

Professor John Davis is in high demand when students are in need of some political science expertise, but he always takes time to share his knowledge.

BY MERCIA WILLIAMS-MURRAY
Hilltop Staff Writer

Professor John Davis is often asked to lend his expertise in the field of political science by many *Hilltop* writers. When asked how he feels about being approached with inquiries he said, "I know why I'm here. Some professors with degrees look down on students. It's my job to pass on information and knowledge and to teach."

And teach he does. Here at Howard, he teaches national government, introduction to political science and international relations courses.

Davis has always wanted to teach. He planned on spending time working for the government, retiring and then teaching, but life took a different route.

During his dissertation for his Ph.D., he had the opportunity to teach a course and he really enjoyed it. His passion grew from that experience.

His students are so moved by him that when Davis lost his mother and planned on taking a few months off, his students at Howard wrote him a letter practically begging him to come back. It's a moment he will never forget.

Davis' international relations course is multi-faceted. It includes learning about the policies of African countries and Iraq among others. Students in Davis' course take trips to the State Department, tour embassies and meet ambassadors and dignitaries.

Davis, who also teaches at Georgetown University, took his Georgetown class to visit 52 embassies in one day. He is trying to do the same with his students here at Howard despite the time constraints. "Students really have a good time. They get excited about it," he said.

Besides teaching at Howard and Georgetown, Davis has taught part-time at the University of D.C. and has been

a guest lecturer at George Washington, American, Florida International and Norfolk State Universities. Davis also taught at Finch University in Chicago, which is under the Department of Defense. The school is attended by some of the best and brightest of the military and some civilians.

He left the Finch University when the administration tried to censor a book he wrote about global terrorism. About 25 people quit with him.

Through studies he had been working on for President George W. Bush, he knew by October 2001 that the United States was going to Iraq and he opposed the decision because he knew that Iraq had nothing to do with 9/11.

Davis has high expectations of the students at Howard, but he believes that students spend too much time on the old legacy of what Howard use to be instead of setting new standards for this generation.

While working at Georgetown, he sees that students learn more here at Howard, and while he enjoys teaching at Georgetown, he loves coming home to Howard. At Howard, he feels that he can teach more freely.

He enjoys working with students outside of the classroom because that's when he has a chance to show that he cares. When the students' parents are not around, they often need support on issues such as failing an exam or needing money for textbooks.

Davis said he does not have much free time. He is currently very busy writing three books. Davis will write approximately 150 recommendations by the end of the semester for students going to graduate school.

Student: Victoria Kirby



Photo Courtesy of Victoria Kirby

Despite being busy, Victoria Kirby, assistant director of community service for the School of Communications, finds time to help those in need.

BY MERCIA WILLIAMS-MURRAY
Hilltop Staff Writer

Victoria Kirby almost has to remind herself to stop and eat during the course of the day.

From sun up to sun down and beyond, she is on the go and busy with more organizations than can be counted on two hands and a full course load.

Last year, Kirby was a member of 13 organizations. She thought that she could do the same thing in college that she did in high school. In high school, she was on the E-board of five of six honors programs at the school. She rushed to be a part of everything and she ended up stretching herself thin.

She said, "I wasn't being fair to any organization because I was missing meetings for one [organization] to go to meetings for another."

Nowadays, Kirby, a sophomore broadcast journalism major, tries to pace herself and take care of herself—two things that she failed to do last year. Her weekends are her personal time. Her friends and loved ones keep her in check.

This is not to say that Kirby doesn't participate in various activities. There is hardly a waking moment when Kirby is not involved in some community service project.

"There's always a need to serve in some capacity. There's always a population left out of your service. I feel like my purpose is service. If I'm not helping, I'm not edifying myself," Kirby said.

Through several campus based organizations, Kirby fulfills her need to serve. She is currently vice-president of Sister to Sister, an organization sponsored by the Chapel that is not exclusively religious.

"It's all about women of all colors coming together to empower and uplift each other instead of talking about one another," she said.

Some activities that Sister to Sister sponsors include workouts, book clubs, discussions, Bible study and an annual "State of the Black Woman" forum which Kirby says covers "every aspect of being a Black woman."

As a broadcast journalism major, Kirby also does a service to herself by getting exposure to the industry. She works on the staff of the tri-weekly news broadcast, *Howard Today*. Kirby has held several positions for *Howard Today* including cameraman, script writer and anchor.

"I anchored once but it wasn't for me. Because I participated in theater every year, I made a lot of facial expressions. I'm too dramatic for the news," she said.

For many years, theater was Kirby's life, but she decided that she wanted to do something different. To keep a part of her life before Howard alive, she participates in *Howard Players*, a theater organization. This is her second year in the theater art based program and it provides an outlet for her. However, she wants to have a job that will provide stability—something she says she needs. She added, "I respect artists that are willing to put themselves out there for their passion."

One of Kirby's most important ventures right now is her role as the assistant director for community service for the School of Communications Student Council. She recently led a forum on homelessness.

"Bringing the community into Howard in order to understand the issues in D.C. is the best way to serve D.C.," she said.

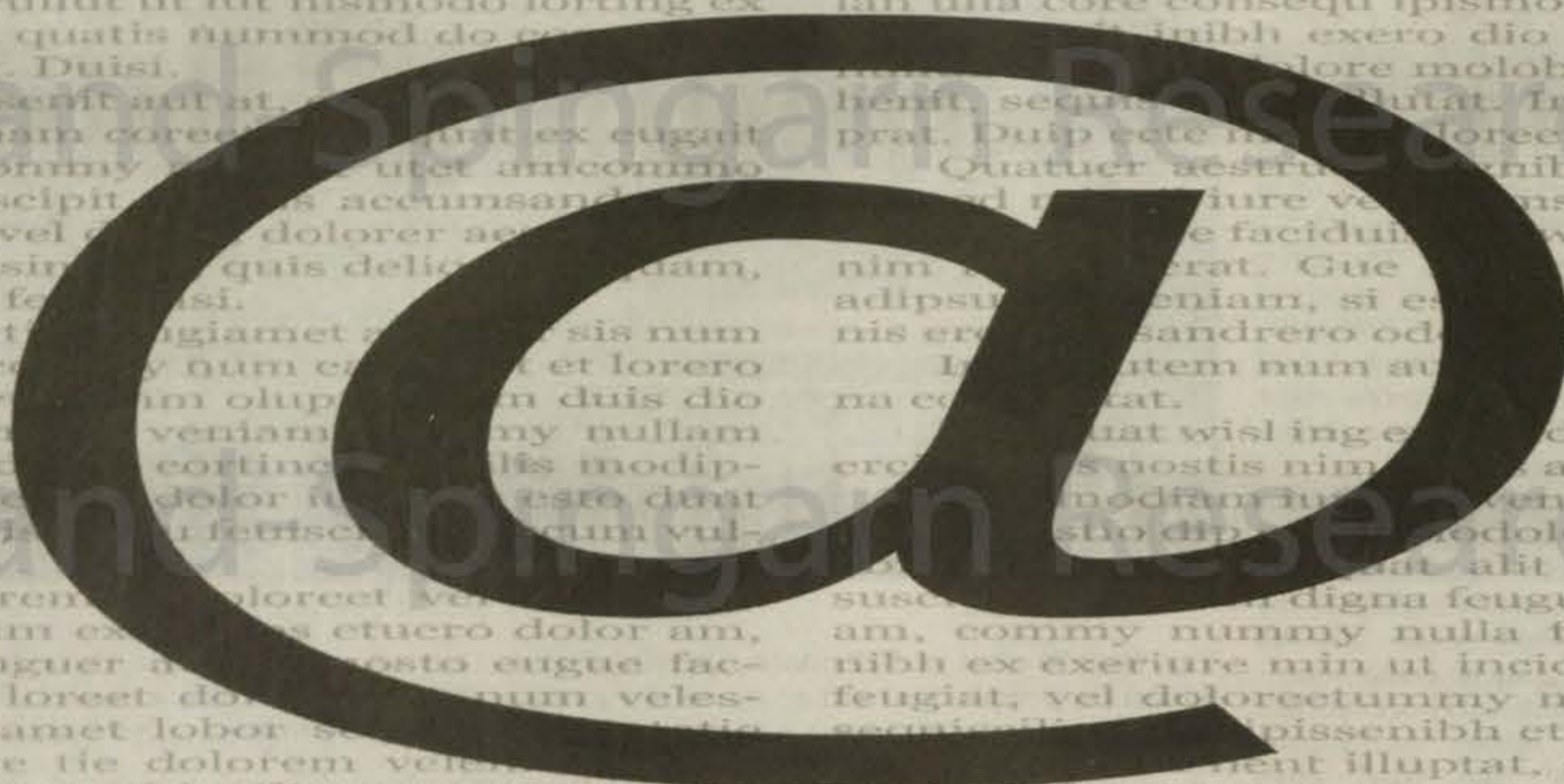
On Nov. 15, the student council will sponsor a charity walk to raise awareness about homelessness in the nation's capital.

"I want to compel people to help others and to be of service to others. If I can change even one person's perspective about something and get them to step out of their box, that's a mark being made," Kirby said.

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'The Wire': Popular HBO Series Brings Reality to the TV Screen

BY CRYSTAL SCHANETTE
Contributing Writer

Drugs, guns, knives, blood, tears, violence and sex: all real life elements that can be found in any inner city in the United States. The HBO television series, "The Wire," uses these elements in its depiction of the west side of Baltimore.

In 2002, its opening season, the show focused on the often futile efforts of police to infiltrate a west Baltimore drug ring, led by Avon Barksdale played by Wood Harris and his lieutenant, Stringer Bell played by Idris Elba.

Seasons two and three focused on the escalation of the Barksdale investigation. New storylines involve a longshoremen's union and the city's political leadership.

The focus this season is on Baltimore's broken school system. The show displays how schools are ill-equipped to successfully educate inner-city students.

This season is based on some of writer and producer Edward Burns' experiences as a social studies teacher. Burns taught for seven years in the Baltimore school system after serving 20 years as a city police detective.

"If anything, our depiction of an inner-city school system, its problems and its unwillingness to fully address those problems, is a very generous one," Burns said on HBO.com.

Creator of "The Wire," David Simon, insists that the series has tried to portray systems and institutions and

"Be honest with ourselves and viewers about how complex these problems are."

"The Wire" has tried to argue this is the city that all of us have built. We've built it through neglect, through hypocrisy, through greed, through the fostering of racial and class divisions and we've got pretty much the city that we deserve, for better or worse," Simon said in Baltimore Sun article titled "David Simon Has Novel Ideas About Wire."

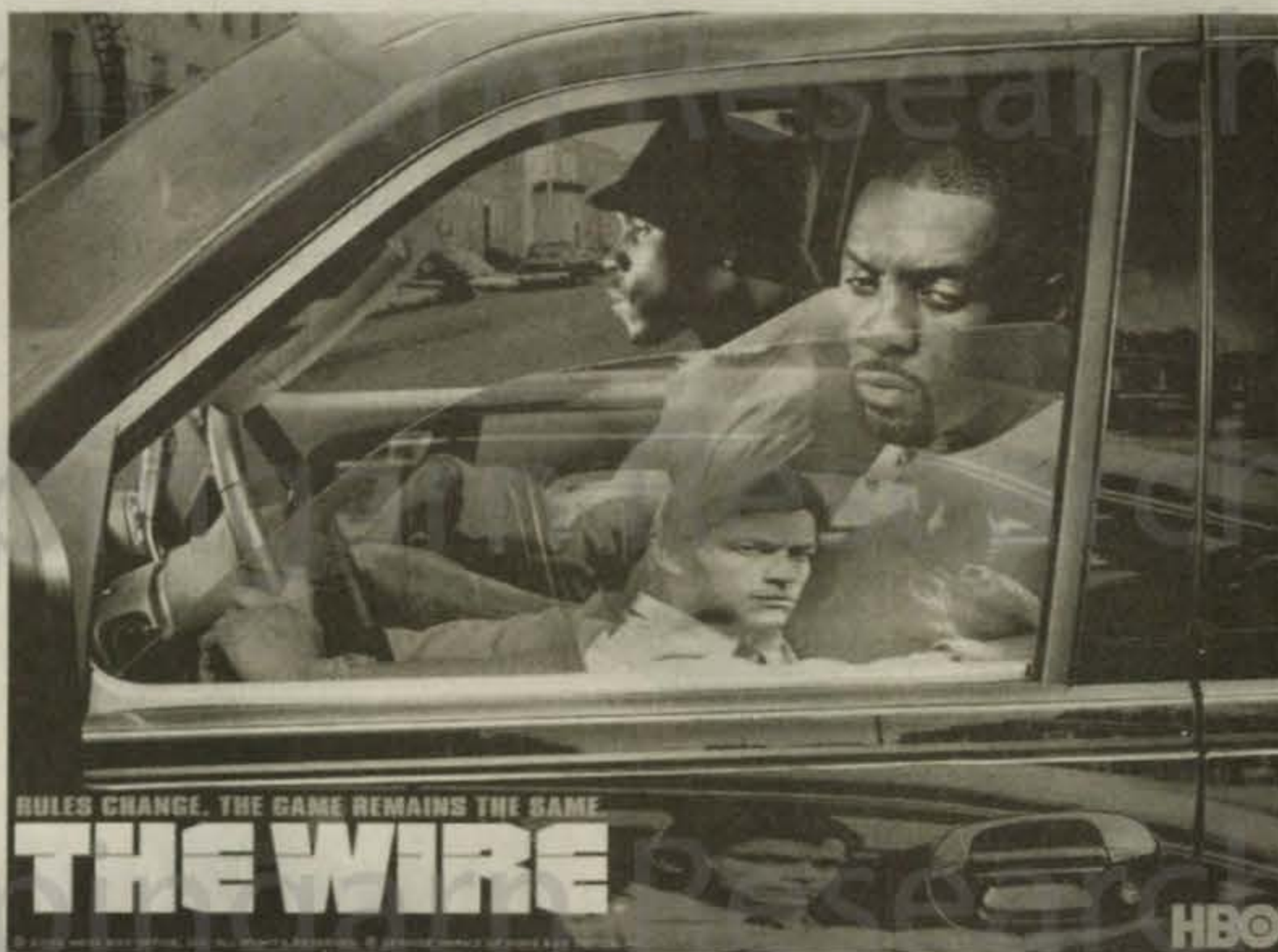
"The Wire's" impact on the black community is often times used as a playbook for life in Baltimore. The series is based on certain aspects of life of west side of Baltimore, "not all of Baltimore," said junior audio production major and Baltimore native Jessica Johnson.

"People assume that 'The Wire' represents all of Baltimore," Johnson is happy that the show highlights the city's school system, and will remain a fan no matter what.

Junior and Prince George's County native Mia Richards believes "The Wire" gives Baltimore a negative reputation.

"All inner cities have drugs and crime, not just Baltimore," she said. Richards feels that the show is helpful in revealing that these obstacles really occur. "The general public never really gets a true display of inner-city life."

Richards believes this season is a bit more constructive since it shows teachers and students surviving the harsh conditions of the school system.



The Wire is shot in Baltimore, Maryland and many characters in the show are based on people that either do or did exist in Baltimore. The show depicts real life problems found in the educational systems of many metropolitan areas.

Former Howard student and Baltimore resident Foli Asem feels that "The Wire" portrays real inner-city life all over the U.S. Asem does not feel that the show creates negativity rather, "People make the show negative."

Asem believes viewers assume that everything that they see on TV is reality. "The show doesn't show the people who open their own businesses or are working to support their families. The Wire is just one aspect of inner city life," Asem said.

Simon does offer suggestions to critics who feel the show does not offer solutions to these problems.

"If you want to solve this, it's not a matter of electing this guy, or indicting that guy or shooting this guy down in the street. It's not about any singular solution like that. The problem is all of us, and we are all complicit," Simon stated to The Baltimore Sun TV critic Davis Zurawik.

There have been talks of cancellation after this fourth season, but Simon will not

desert the show.

"I've lived with this project for five years now and the idea of not finishing it in the way that we conceived it is just appalling to me."

Simon's fondest wish for the season and the series is that viewers understand these problems are big and they came from a lot of different forces. He also wishes to express the idea that it is going to take a lot of effort by a lot of people to solve them.

METRO MONITOR

Wednesday, Montgomery County Public School officials were prompted to put 13 schools in code blue mode after a student reported that a man approached him at his bus stop with a gun and made threats to surrounding schools. Later this claim by the student turned out to be a hoax, as the student admitted that he made the story up. Only schools in the upper portion of the county were affected by the code blue lock down.



Photo Courtesy www.abed.com

Students at Gallaudet University, a school for the deaf and blind, escalated their protests against president-elect Jane Fernandes on Wednesday, because they feel she lacks the necessary skills to lead the school. Some students involved in the protest blocked the entrances to the university with cars, tents and human barricades. The students are protesting in hopes that the presidential search process will be reopened, and protesters say they won't reopen the school until their demands are met.

According to the National Weather Service, the Mid-Atlantic region of the east coast will have varying winter weather, because of a weak El Nino underway in the Pacific Ocean. The northern Mid-Atlantic is expected to have warmer than normal winter temperatures. However, the outlook for the southern Mid-Atlantic is expected to have equal chances of warmer and cooler than normal temperatures.



Photo Courtesy of www.tribuneindia.com

Lee Boyd Malvo, the D.C. sniper, took responsibility Tuesday for his role in the October 2002 killing spree that terrorized the metro area. Malvo, 21, plead guilty to six counts of first degree murder. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Nov. 9, 2006.

The new Asia trail exhibit will open Tuesday at the National Zoo. The exhibit is nearly six acres of renovated land that cost about \$53 million. As a part of the renovation, the area that houses pandas, baby Tai Shan and mother Mei Xiang, has been doubled. Also, the area for other animals like the bear sloths and clouded leopards has been expanded. The Asia trail is the first step in the 10-year plan to remodel the entire zoo at an estimated cost of \$500 million.

Compiled By Janelle Jolley,
Metro Editor

Around the District: George Washington University

A Day in the Life of a Black Student at a Local University

THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON DC

THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON DC

BY BRITTANY LUSE
Contributing Writer

Angela Hanks is a woman in flux.

"I could work out today, but, then again, maybe I won't," she said, brow furrowed. Hanks mentally weighs her options while tidying her spacious single dorm room in George Washington University's Astor Hall, though there isn't much to tidy.

Judging by the way her five LSAT practice books are carefully arranged on the bookshelf, a Rosa Parks print is tucked up just so and her gray duvet spread neatly over her bed, Hanks' place is near-spotless. Still in the throes of indecision, she abandons straightening up to rummage through the refrigerator in her kitchen.

"I think I will," she decides, pulling out a giant bottle of water. "It's not like I don't have the time."

These words are almost humorous coming from the senior music and political science double major at George Washington University. With as full a schedule as hers, it's a wonder she even has time to hit the gym.

A typical day for Hanks begins at 8 a.m., when she gets up to finish homework and grab some coffee before her first class of the day at 9:30 a.m. She's in class until about noon when she then breaks to go home and take care of her duties as business manager for GWU's noted all female a capella group, Sirens.

Hanks duties with Sirens can range from contacting groups from other schools to perform with, registering the group with Student Associations, to drafting their constitution and writing the budget.

"I just try to take care of things that have to be completed by the end of the business day," she said.

Hanks is also in charge of setting



Angela Hanks, center, is experiencing minority life at majority institution George Washington University.

up their performances, which they will have for the next three weekends. "Booking the rooms and stuff isn't difficult," Hanks said. "Making sure everything is paid for is a bit trickier."

If she doesn't have much to take care of Sirens-wise, Hanks will use this time to work on her music coursework.

"I do my homework in chunks," she says. "I'll do my music theory or music history at one time, and then my poli-sci assignments later on...I have to have a different mindset for each."

At 2 p.m., she gets back into class mode again, and sometimes has class until about 6 p.m.

"It cuts close to Sirens practices, but it's not too bad," Hanks said. The group rehearses from 6-8 p.m., making Hanks's dinner whatever she can get her hands on.

"The only thing that gets

cooked in my kitchen is salad," she said. Hanks usually takes about 90 minutes to work out, and then retire back to her room to work on homework until about 1 a.m.

"My schedule now is not actually that bad," she said. "Last semester, when I had my other job, it was worse."

The "other job" Hanks is referring to was her internship for Michigan Congresswoman Debbie Stabenow, which Hanks describes as "very rewarding, and hopefully a peek into the future."

Hanks, who is presently applying to law school, hopes her internship experience will help set her law school application a part. She has long wanted to work on Capitol Hill and sees applying to law school as the next logical step in that direction.

Hanks, who took her LSAT exam at the end of September, is

writing application essays to schools like Boston College, Brooklyn Law and Fordham University while waiting for her scores to arrive.

"I'm planning on applying to only five schools, but my mom's pressuring me to do 10 applications," Hanks said. "We'll see."

Hanks has no class or rehearsal on Fridays, when she puts in 12 hours as a waitress at a small restaurant in southeast Washington, D.C., something she thinks has helped her stay away from the "GWU bubble."

On weekends, Hanks waits tables for eight hours each Saturday and Sunday and hits local bars in Adams Morgan with friends on down time when the Sirens are not performing.

"My main goal is to be efficient in what I do. I'm a senior, I'm 21 and in a big city. I just try to get everything done well so I can enjoy myself," Hanks said.

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READS THE HILLTOP..."**

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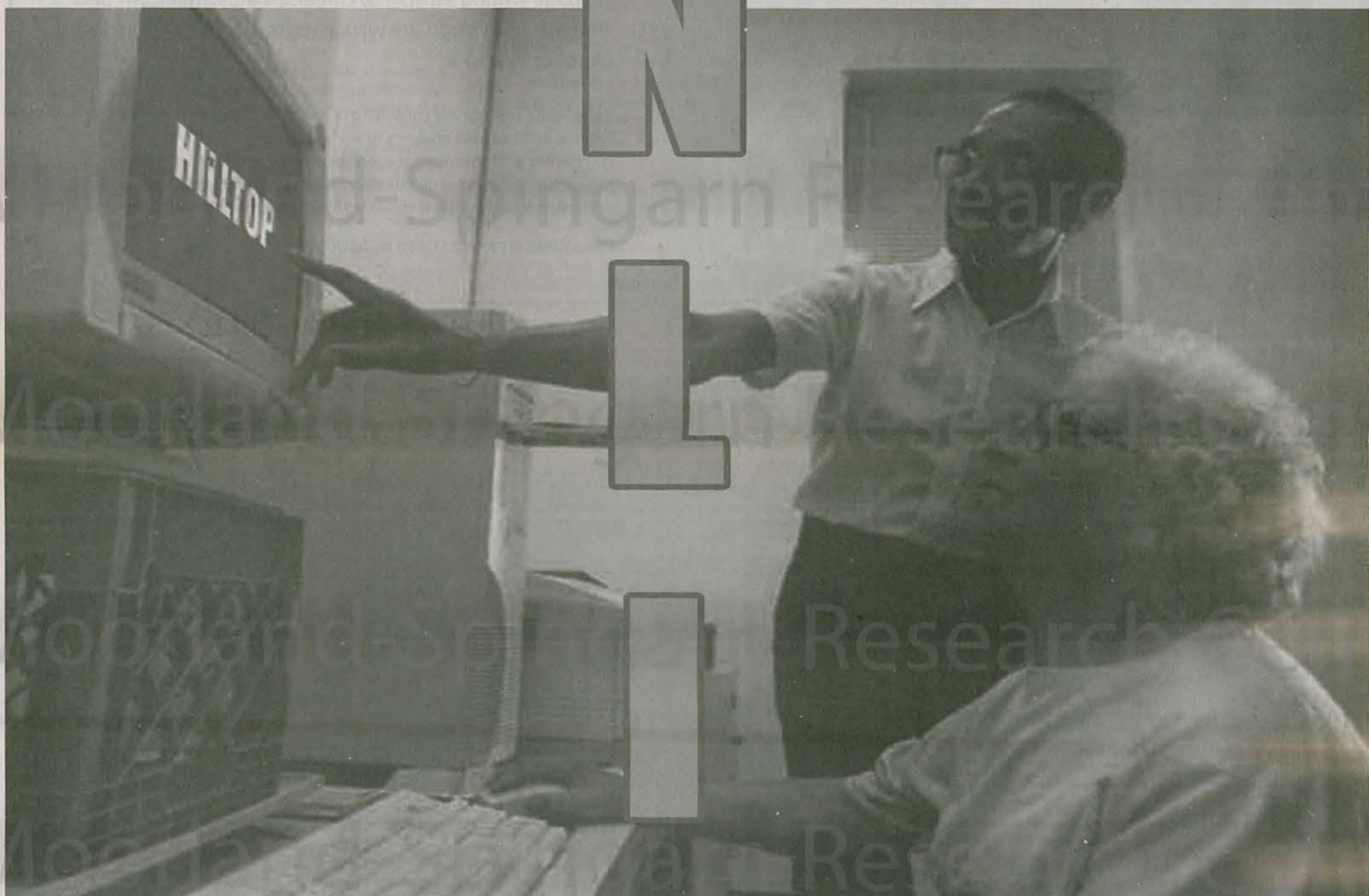
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Sometimes It Be's Like That

*The Unfortunate
Truths of
Interpersonal
Relationships*



BY AMBER ENGLISH
Nation & World Editor

Once upon a time at Howard, a young man mustered up all the courage he could to ask a special young lady on a date. Without second thought, the young lady rejected him, because of course he'd always be there. Years later, when she came back for Homecoming, she saw everything that the young man had become [along with the fiancé on his arm] and she kicked herself all week-end long.

Well, I'm pretty sure that's happened, at least once. The genders are interchangeable. Time always seems to have the last laugh in relationships. Love is patient and one should never put a clock to the heart, but timing is everything.

Whenever I call my mother complaining about whatever the problem may be, her response is always, "when the time is right, it'll fall into place...if it's for you, it's yours."

Relationships can't be rushed, because most things that are put together hastily eventually fall apart. Take a house, for example, if the foundation isn't laid properly, before you know it, your house will start to sink into the ground. It won't necessarily come crashing to the ground...but one day you'll be doing something and realize that the floor is completely slanted. Who wants to live in an unbalanced home?

Continuing with the house metaphor, some seasons just aren't the best for building a house. I'm not a contractor or anything, but it's my guess that wintertime house construction is much harder than building in the spring. As much as you might want to build that house right then, it's probably wiser to wait until the weather breaks.

At the same time, if you wait too long, you'll end up in the shoes of the special young lady in the opening of this piece. Absence makes the heart grow fonder, but time can change even the most passionate feelings.

But in quick defense of the procrastinators, it's not always a "they'll always be around" type of thing. Perhaps there's some apprehension, the fear of rejection is powerful. I suppose everyone has to get over it eventually, but the first step is always the hardest.

All in all, it's a delicate balance. Right about now, I could sit here and say wait patiently and it will come...but that wouldn't be fair because I find myself getting fairly impatient as of late.

It would also be unrealistic because Prince(ess) Charming isn't going to just drop into your lap. All of the best in life requires some type of effort.

And if by chance your window of opportunity has closed, take it as a lesson and try not to kick yourself too hard. Even R. Kelly couldn't turn back the hands of time. Missed opportunities always burn, but hey, sometimes it be's like that.

Right now, I'm busy trying to make up for some lost time...nonetheless, feel free to drop me a line at SILBT2006@yahoo.com.

Test Yourself

Knowledge is power, so we at The Hilltop decided to test your knowledge. We'll be posing questions and providing you with activities to sharpen your skills and build your knowledge.

Can you recall the mascot and colors of these universities?

- 1) George Washington University
- 2) Gallaudet University
- 3) Georgetown University
- 4) American University
- 5) University of the District of Columbia
- 6) Catholic University
- 7) Trinity University

For more on area schools, see "Around the District" in today's Metro section, page 4.

- ANSWERS:
- 1) Colonias; Navy and Gold
 - 2) Bison; Navy and Gold
 - 3) Hoys; Navy and Gray
 - 4) Eagles; Navy and Red
 - 5) Firebirds; Red and Gold
 - 6) Cardinals; Red and Black
 - 7) Tiger; Purple and Red

Overheard @ The Mecca

So that's why they call it a butterscotch?
Overheard in The School of B

Hacking Cough Girl: (cough, cough, cough) (cough some more)

Student: Let's have a moment of silence.

Coughing Girl: (cough, cough, cough)

Student2: She needs some water.

Professor: (walks over to coughing girl and takes mint out of pocket) Here you go.

Girl: Don't take it, it's a mickey!

Well, Lando Calrissian WAS a Traitor...
Overheard in The School of C

Film student 1: What's up with the lack of black people in fantasy movies? Like The Lord Of The Rings, they couldn't have one black elf running around?

Film student 2: That's because in white people's fantasies, black people don't exist.

Check out more at Overheardatthemecca.blogspot.com and submit to Overheardatthemecca@gmail.com

Chillin' With The Hilltop



Photo Courtesy of Joshua Thomas

Derick "Blaze" Bowers sits outside Howard Plaza Towers West enjoying "The Daily Student Voice of Howard University." Look for more about Blaze, who is the opener for Yardfest '06, in tomorrow's edition.

THE HILLTOP VAULT

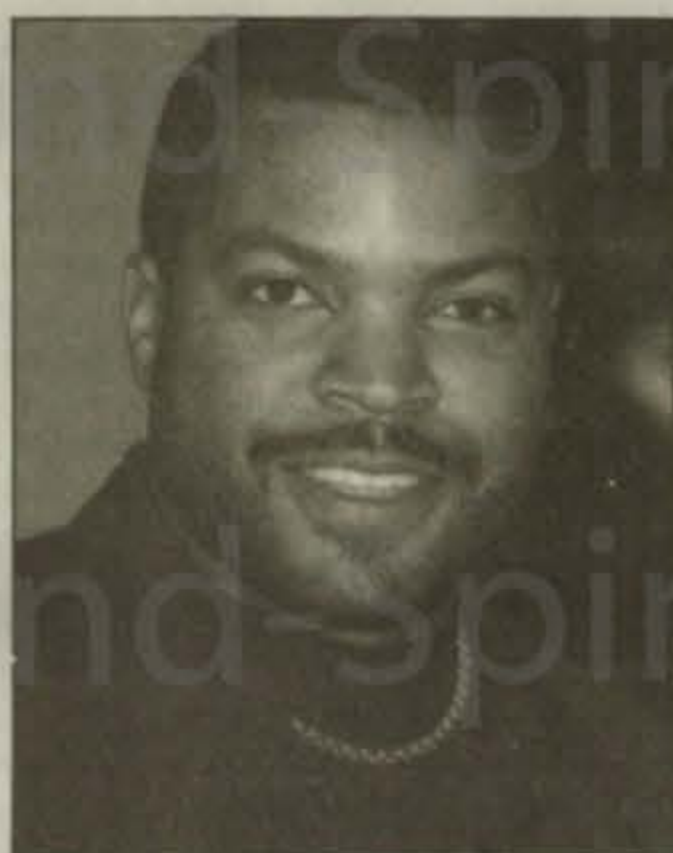
We at The Hilltop have long enjoyed looking back at the archived issues in the office. Here, we've decided to let you all peek into the past.

TO THE MOST THOROUGH MAN I KNOW: BEFORE THE SEMESTER ENDED, I WANTED TO WISH YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY; I'LL SURELY, MISS YOU. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER "THRILLING" SEMESTER WITH YOU. I MUST ADD THAT "YES" I AM OUT OF CONTROL. LOVE, JOCELYN.

-DECEMBER 4, 1981

Six Degrees of Separation

We know it's a bit unconventional to run the answers on the first day, but since we decided to be a bit unconventional and use staff members, we figured you could use a hint.



Ice Cube
Homecoming 2006 Grand Marshall

Ice Cube starred in "Barbershop" with Cedric the Entertainer who worked on "The Steve Harvey Show" with Steve Harvey who was in "U Got Served" with Marques Houston who appeared on "Wild N' Out" against Nick Cannon who also had musical guest Common who was interviewed last Homecoming by Vanessa Mizell who works on The Hilltop under Ayesha Rascoe

=> => => => => =>



Ayesha Rascoe
The Hilltop Editor-in-Chief

Please send any responses to Meccanisms, including 'Sometimes It Be's Like That' topics, things to test ourselves on, things you've overheard @ The Mecca, photos of people 'Chillin' With The Hilltop' or 'Six Degrees of Separation' sets to meccanisms@gmail.com

HBCU Education Questioned, Attendance Decline

BY DANIELLE KWATENG
Hilltop Staff Writer

There has always been competition between white people and black people for positions of stature. It is a common notion among blacks that as a black person, twice the work is needed to achieve equal opportunities as white people.

Affirmative action was originally created to give minorities a fighting chance against the white majority. Even with this solution, there still seems to be a disadvantage for black students coming from HBCUs.

As Dave Chappelle noted in one of his skits about a black man trying to get hired by a white employer, many employers think possible employees should "go back to Howard" after we graduate.

Despite what many think, Howard has educated countless minds of people who have turned out to be many of the worlds greatest leaders and have impacted the global community.

Besides Howard, there are 105 other HBCUs in 24 states, mainly in the south, that enroll more than 350,000 African-American students annually.

Yet, despite their social and cultural success, many HBCUs face an uncertain future.

According to the Department of Education, in 2003, 14 percent of all black college students attended HBCUs. This percent-



Photo courtesy of www.jenkleemann.de

Counterparts at other universities, such as Ivy League schools like Harvard (pictured above), question the level of education taught at historically black colleges and universities.

age represented the schools' smallest share of the black college students who chose to attend HBCUs since their founding.

Before the passing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, 85 percent of all blacks that attended college attended HBCUs. And further, in the past two decades 12 HBCUs have closed.

Many people assume that Howard should get special preference for being so well-known and accepted in the U.S., but when compared to Ivy League schools

such as Harvard or Yale, many think it doesn't match up.

Junior public relations major Faith Ohai recounts a situation this summer that dealt with this subject.

"I was at a seminar with students from Harvard, Penn State, John Hopkins, University of Maryland and Fordham University. We were talking in a group discussing the rigor of our coursework," Ohai said. "I told them of my communication law class that I took and that despite

its high demands, I was able to earn an 'A' in the course. The girl from Penn State was like 'Oh well that's like a C at Penn.' I asked for clarification because I was extremely puzzled," Ohai said.

"She explained how students at her school are told that the academic grading at HBCUs is below the standards at other schools. The other students chimed in and agreed."

Ohai added that an employee at Penn State joined in the conversation and validated their

point.

"Being the type that likes to debate, I posed the question: 'Is that an assumption or something that was concluded from experience?'" Ohai said.

Ohai explained black institutions are not inferior. "I loathe the remarks I get from my friends who chose to go to white majority schools. They rationalize why they specifically chose not to go to an HBCU and act like I can't get a good job if I graduate from an HBCU," she said.

"Government policy or not, what students need to look at is the positive aspect. They need to think about where they can get in and make an impact or just move on," Ohai said.

Morris Mann, an investment advisor in D.C. and a 1994 Morehouse College graduate shared his thoughts on why it is an advantage to come from an HBCU.

"We need to look at the facts; not every industry is looking to hire minorities, but the world is becoming more global and a lot of companies understand that," Mann said. "It can even be an advantage to come from an HBCU because companies are looking for diversity. Three main reasons are because they need a different perspective, their clients may be from a different ethnic background and they may know the excellent quality from past experience with working with minorities."

The Hilltop Survey Says...

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Rhymefest Brings Back the Balance to Hip Hop

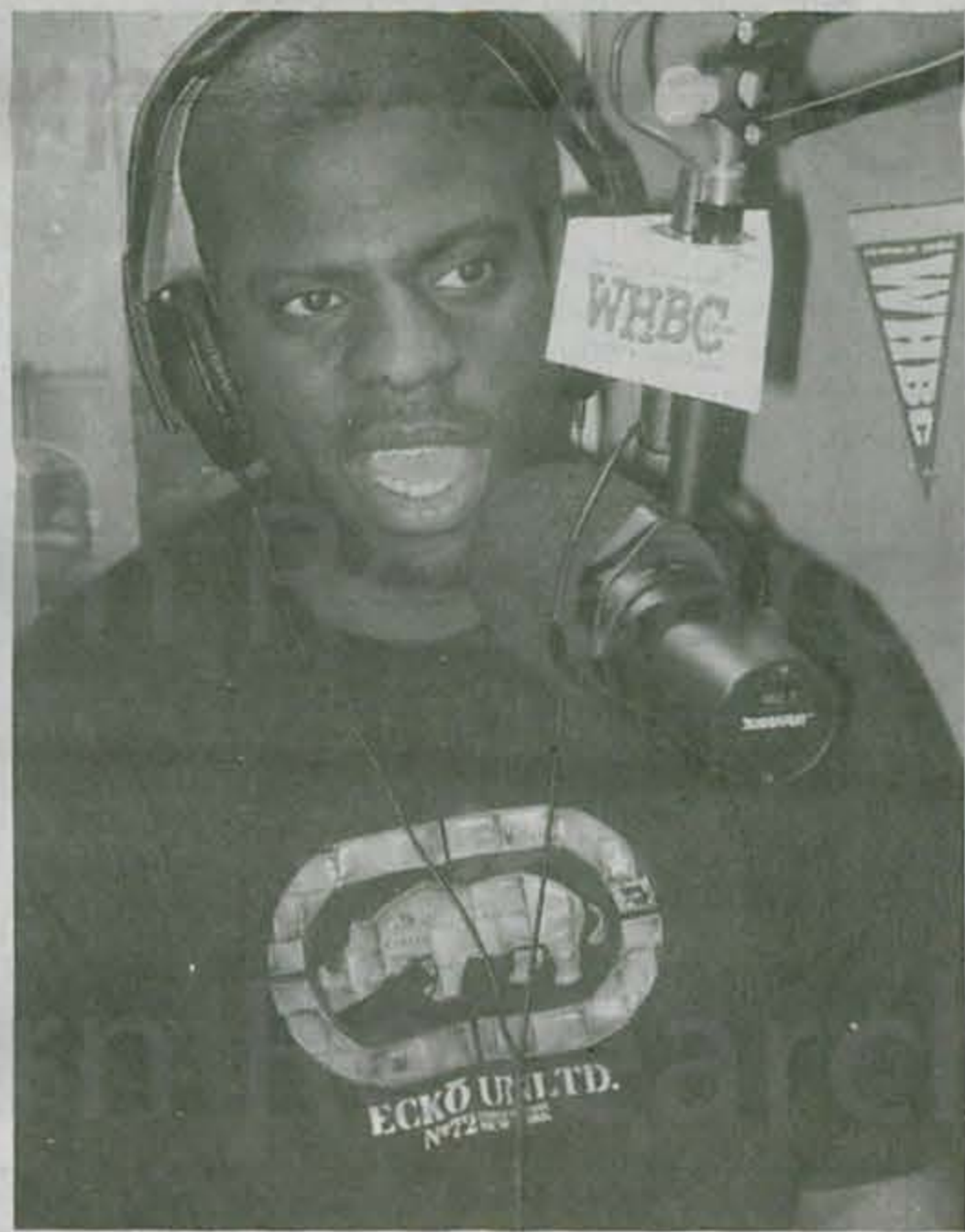


Photo Courtesy Rasha Johnson

Rhymefest, who recently came to WHBC, talked about how he brings balance to rap with his blended style.

BY JOSHUA THOMAS
Deputy Managing Editor

Balance. This is what rapper Rhymefest says sets him apart from other lyricists and is the hallmark for the music he makes. It is what defines his unique sound. This same keyword, balance, popped up over and over again throughout Rhymefest's interview with WHBC.

Rhymefest, born Che Smith, describes his even-handed style as returning to the way hip hop used to be, "meshing humor and awareness."

Rhymefest, who won a Grammy for his work on Kanye West's "Jesus Walks" has been putting in work in the rap game for quite a while, and has finally been afforded a break.

Rhymefest's major label debut, "Blue Collar," hit the shelves this past July and rose to #61 on the charts.

"Blue Collar" features a range of themes from the more

humorous type, such as the single "Brand New," to more serious, socio-political tracks like "Sister."

Fest commented on the make-up and production of the project saying that it was a full album to be regarded as one piece instead of 17 parts of a whole. "It's not a mixtape or compilation," Rhymefest said. "They're gonna get me, Rhymefest."

The album's credits read as a who's who of popular producers, boasting names including Mark Ronson, Animal House, Just Blaze, No I.D., Cool & Dre and Kanye West. Rhymefest believes it is key for the LP to be musically sound, no matter

what the cost may be. "I spent a lot of money on the best production," Fest said.

Aside from his album "Blue Collar," which is currently in your local record store, Rhymefest spoke about his take on the current state of hip hop and rap.

Rhymefest said that many rappers out there today rap about the bad situations they are in and, in doing so, glorify the negative. In contrast, Fest believes that the genre should return to the days where rappers exposed the ugly truths of Black America as a catalyst for change. "There used to be a day when we were talking about getting out of this," said Rhymefest.

Due to his unique style, he is often classified as being a conscious rapper, a backpack emcee. However, Rhymefest prefers not to be included in that grouping. "I don't like that term [conscious.] I'm culturally aware." Rhymefest said his idea of a conscious rapper is someone who "wears a backpack and sits back and complains... if that's what it is then that ain't me!"

Fest did not hold his tongue when it came to hip hop legend Flavor Flav either. "Flavor Flav is a coon! He is a buffoon. Look at what a sambo is and that's him. He is a disgrace to the group [Public Enemy.]"

Rhymefest's next project is his Plugg City Tour. The tour carries along with it an accompanying contest. The winner will have Fest stay with him or her for three days in which he will go to the winner's job and live in the winner's house. The winner will also be able to shadow Rhymefest in studio sessions, shows, or appearances with a cameraman in tow.

"There used to be a day when we were talking about getting out of this."

- Rhymefest

EDITORIALS

e3 Perspectives

VOLUME 90, NO. 32

OCTOBER 12, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM



North Korea to Nuke

A small plane crashing into an east Manhattan apartment building yesterday already has many of us on edge. The Oct. 11 crash reminded us of another 11th day of the month in Sept. five years ago, and opened many of our minds to what our lives would become if North Korea decides to strike.

Monday headlines circled the globe that North Korea was testing nuclear bombs. Though the reports have yet to be confirmed, it is frightening to think of another war with America taking place especially if it can be prevented.

Yesterday, *Forbes Magazine* reported that top North Korean officials said their continuance in developing nuclear arms depends on the United States' attitude toward the nation and that if they continue to feel pressure they will strike.

Whether founded or not, the threat of another war, particularly a nuclear one, is chilling. But for us as students in the nation's capital, the threat cuts even deeper.

Though earlier this week we shared how Howard's loca-

tion was great for those who had dreams of interning on Capitol Hill, that proximity to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue already has many of our parents concerned in the post-Sept. 11 world and we're pretty sure where North Korea would strike first in a nuclear war.

Our View:

North Korea's current threats of war reinforce the fact that America must become more cognizant of its relations with other countries. All great empires fall, so let's not speed up our time.

Our way of treating other countries is sometimes deplorable and can end up being deadly in the long run. Our government must realize the vulnerability of its power as the number of countries against us

grows the longer Bush is in office.

We as citizens must also begin the awareness that we as American citizens aren't superior and if things keep going the way they are, we may be trying to move to other countries (until that first ticket to space is available that some staffers hope for).

North Korea's threat of war is especially serious to young people like us. Our troops are already depleted, overworked and see no end in sight in the war in Iraq. So if another U.S. war were to begin, it probably would not be long before some sort of draft was needed to have enough soldiers to fight.

We as a country are treading on really thin ice and must change our attitudes before it is too late. Communism is not the way of life in this country. Neither is polygamy or state religion. Our government must develop a greater level of tolerance and respect for the ways of other countries if it is to continue to be a superpower in the future.

Daily SuDoku

Directions: Each row, each column, and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

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Do you want to write for THE HILLTOP?

Come to our budget meeting

Monday @ 7 p.m.

THE HILLTOP

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Now in its 83rd year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 7,000, The Hilltop is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

ATTENTION STUDENTS

ALL STUDENT TICKETS FOR THE HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME WERE DISTRIBUTED YESTERDAY, OCTOBER 11TH.

THERE ARE NO MORE AVAILABLE, THEREFORE THERE WILL BE NO DISTRIBUTION TODAY.

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY...

On Oct. 12, 1999, NBA Hall-of-Famer Wilt Chamberlain died at age 63.

SCOREBOARD & SCHEDULE

SCORES

None

TODAY'S GAMES

None

Chapel School

DATES - Every Sunday

(Sunday, October 8, 2006 to Sunday, December 10, 2006)

TIME - 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

LOCATION - Douglass Hall; Rooms 105, 116, 125 and 126

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Open registration. Interested participants may register:
- In Room 105 on Sunday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
 - After Chapel Sunday morning services
 - Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel Office in the Lower Level of the Carnegie Building

COURSES

FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN LIFE

Instructor:

Rev. Ertas R. Burrell, Chaplain (The Navigators),
Rev. Dr. MacGee P. Packer, Chaplain (United Methodist)

This Christian life forum explores the basic principles of discipleship and the Christian faith. It explores aspects of faithful living and foundational Christian doctrines including salvation, baptism and the church.

WHO AM I? WHERE AM I GOING?

A SEMINAR ON CALL AND VOCATION

Instructor:

Visiting Lecturers

This call and vocation forum is an opportunity for congregations to discover and interpret their life's purpose and meaning. It seeks to provide a basis for assigning meaning to life and livelihood through the exploration of questions like: "Who am I?" "What is my life's purpose?" "What legacy will my life leave?"

GENESIS: A FAMILY REUNION

Instructor:

Dr. J. W. BENTLEY WILLIAMS, GM, Treasurer, School, VTS

This course is an overview and an examination of the dominant literary, theological themes, the book of Genesis which richly inform our understanding of our relationship with God and each other.

CHILDREN OF FAITH

Instructor:

KYVIN WILLIAMS, Child Psychologist,
CHAPEL AND GRADUATE ASSISTANT

This children's class is an ongoing series that will provide a creative ministry to develop the children's relationship with God. School age children will receive education and ministry designed to form the foundations of their faith.

We are accepting volunteers to serve on the new **CHapel School PLANNING COMMITTEE**. Interested persons should contact **CARLA BRAILEY** at braileyc@yahoo.com

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